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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 58

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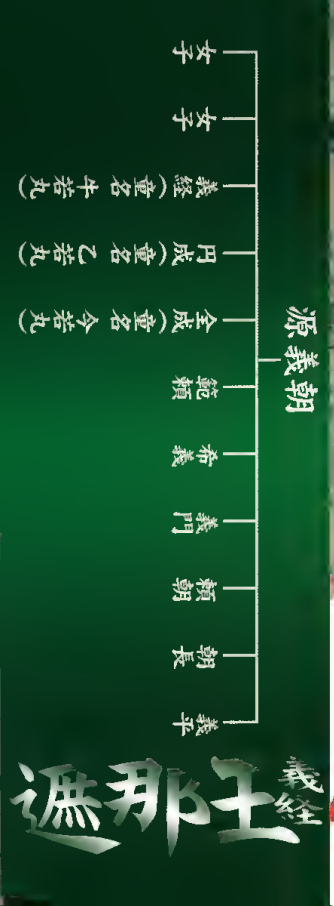

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金国の使者、コヨウ姫に恋をした弁慶は、刺客と間違えられ捕らわれてしまう。金国との友好に反対する者達が姫をさらい殺そうとするが、それを知った弁慶は……？

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

沢田ひろふみ作品

遮那王 —義経— 1～16

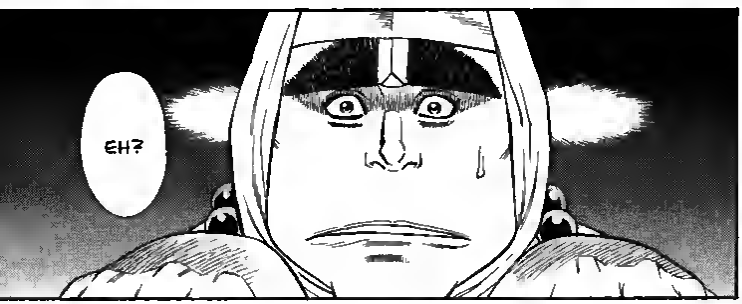
山賊王 1～8

以下続刊

遮那王 義経

奥州編

沢田ひろふみ



The story so far...

Sensing that Kiyomori was keeping a close eye on Hyouta, who was determined to live his life as Ushiwakamaru, Hyouta's stepfather, Fujiwara no Naganari, sends Hyouta to Hiraizumi in Oshu. Together with Musashibo Benkei, the "Vassal of Loyalty", and Ise-Saburou Yoshimori, the "Vassal of Courage" who joined him midway through his journey, Yoshitsune entered Hiraizumi. Yoshitsune met with Fujiwara Hidehira, the ruler of Oshu, and abruptly asked for his assistance in defeating the Heike. Furthermore, he met with and eventually gained the trust of Hidehira's sons, Kunihira and Yasuhira, and the Satou brothers, Tsugunobu and Tadanobu of Shinobu.

COME QUIETLY WITH US
TAKE THE CORPSE TO A PLACE IT WON'T BE FOUND, TOO
TAKE CARE OF HER SO THAT HIDEHIRA-SAMA DOESN'T TAKE NOTICE.
COULD IT BE?!
!!

During this time, Princess Koyou, from the country of the Great Jin, visits Hiraizumi as a messenger. Princess Koyou sees through to the wounds Benkei harbors inside himself after watching him save a child in town. Having fallen for Princess Koyou, Benkei arbitrarily decides to protect her after hearing there were rumors of people who hate the country of Jin plotting to assassinate her. However, he is mistaken for an assassin and captured. Then, the real assassins take the princess away. After hearing some noise, Benkei escapes from his prison, and then...

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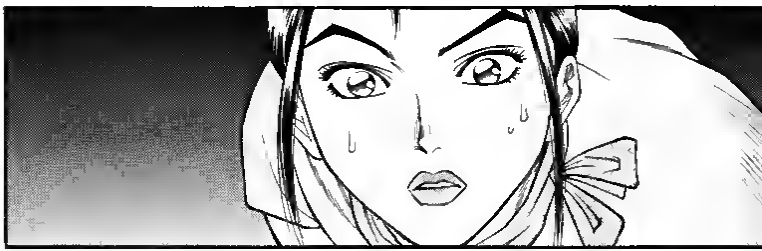
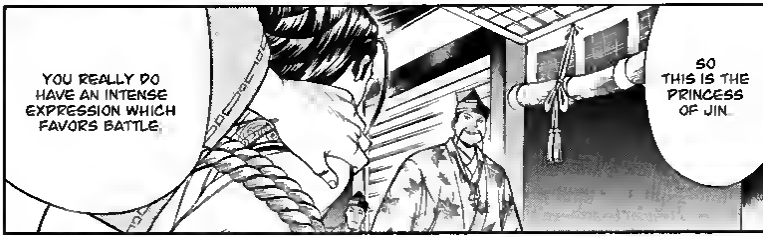
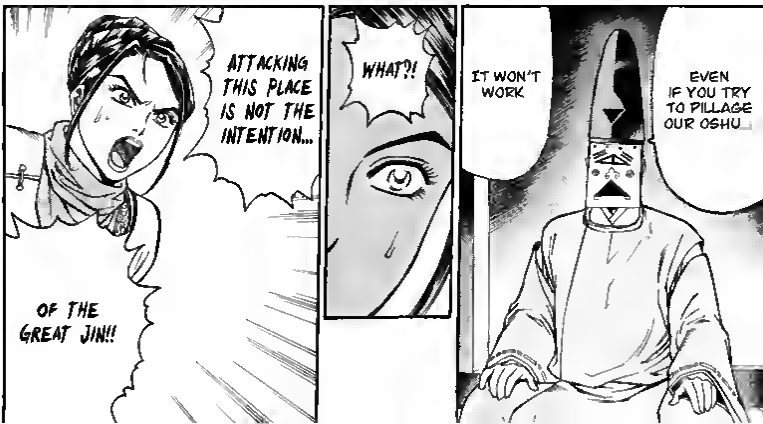


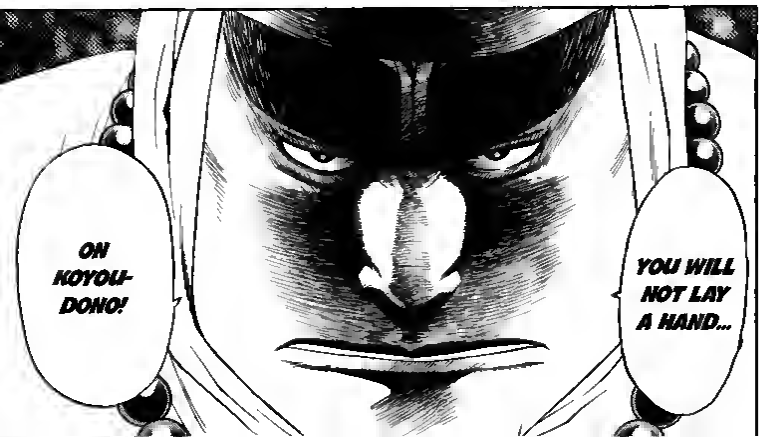
Chapter 58
Benkei's Love (Part 2)


YOU REALLY DO HAVE AN INTENSE EXPRESSION WHICH FAVORS BATTLE
SO THIS IS THE PRINCESS OF JIN


ATTACKING THIS PLACE IS NOT THE INTENTION...
OF THE GREAT JIN!!
WHAT?!
IT WON'T WORK
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO PILLAGE OUR OSHU

BEHEAD HER.
YES.
WE'LL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU, SO THAT NO ONE FROM THE COUNTRY OF JIN...
WILL EVER ENTER OUR OSHU AGAIN.
UGH...
DIE!!

HMM?
WH-WHAT IS THAT?!
AH!!


ON KOYOU-DONO!
YOU WILL NOT LAY A HAND...

B...
Benkei?!
IS HE WITH HER?!
WHY IS HE HERE?!
FORGET IT, CUT HIM DOWN! KILL HIM!!
URYAH!

GAH!
YAH!
G-GET HIM!
KILL HIM!!

UGH!
BENKEI!!
ARE YOU HURT?

WHY...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
KILL HIM! KILL HIM!!
BENKEI, I KNOW THAT YOU AREN'T AN ASSASSIN!
SO IT'S FINE NOW! YOU ESCAPE AT LEAST!
HAA
HAA
HAA

OOHH!

FALL

GAH!
GAH!

Benkei...

DO NOT WORRY, KOYOU-DONO.
I WILL SAVE YOU WITHOUT FAIL!!

THE BOWS!! FIRST, KILL THE GIRL WITH THE BOWS!!
YES!

!!
AHH!!

Ugh.
Uhh..
B-BENKEI!!
WHY DO YOU GO SO FAR?!
……

IT WAS THE FIRST...
EH?
BUT YOU...
ALL WOMEN...
HAVE SEEN ME AS REVOLTING...

YOU TOUCHED ME...
OF YOUR OWN ACCORD...
EH?!
J-Just because of that...
You...

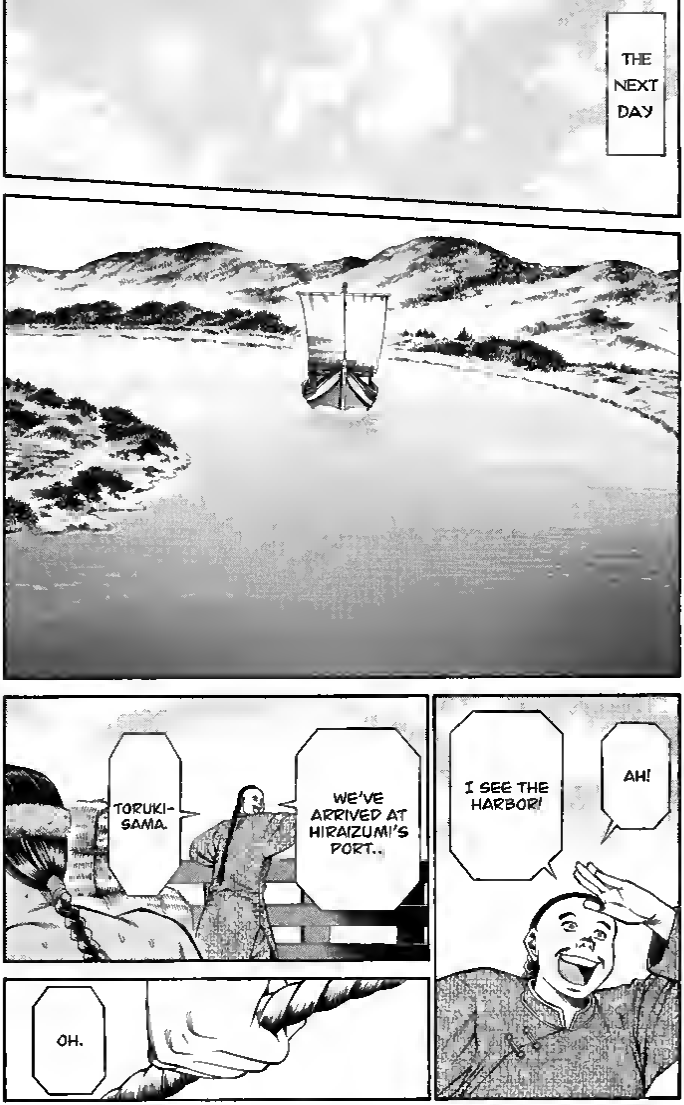
And while sustaining such wounds
We even bound you in ropes
All by yourself
You're trying to protect me.
Benkei...

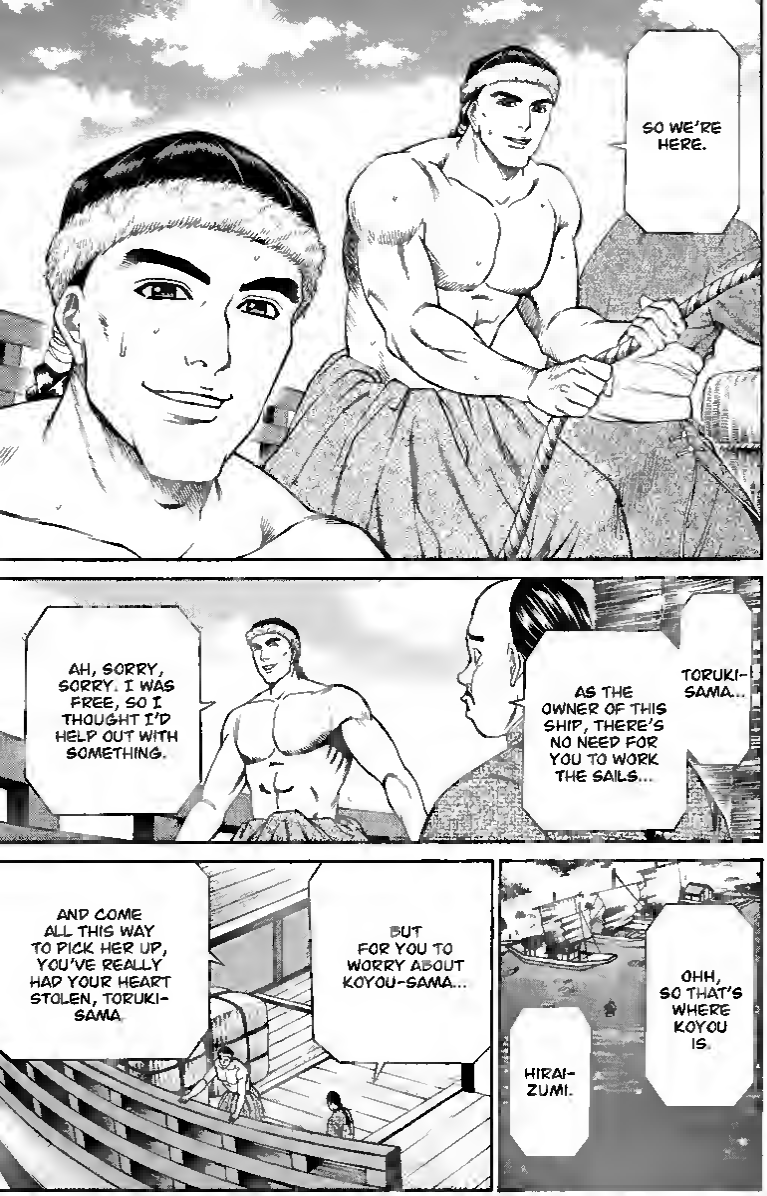
BENKEI, CUT MY ROPES AND GIVE ME A SWORD!!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU ...?
DO NOT FALTER! GET HIM! GET HIM!!
URYAH!
ズッ

EH?

WE'RE ESCAPING, BENKEI!!!

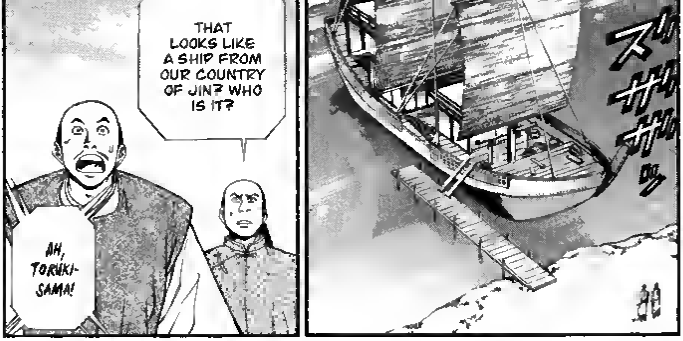
D-DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
AFTER THEM!!
THIS MANSION IS REMOTE WE'LL ESCAPE TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN.
O-OKAY
O...
OKAY!!
GRR, DAMN IT...
THIS...
IS NOT OVER!!


THE NEXT DAY
TORUKI-SAMA.
WE'VE ARRIVED AT HIRAIZUMI'S PORT..
OH.
I SEE THE HARBOR!
AH!


SO WE'RE HERE.
TORUKI-SAMA...
AS THE OWNER OF THIS SHIP, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORK THE SAILS...
AH, SORRY, SORRY. I WAS FREE, SO I THOUGHT I'D HELP OUT WITH SOMETHING.
OHH, SO THAT'S WHERE KOYOU IS.
HIRAI-ZUMI.
BUT FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT KOYOU-SAMA...
AND COME ALL THIS WAY TO PICK HER UP, YOU'VE REALLY HAD YOUR HEART STOLEN, TORUKI-SAMA.

I'VE ALSO SENSED THAT KOYOU HAS BEEN CONFUSED SINCE WE WERE ENGAGED.
IT SEEMS SHE'S UNABLE TO COMPLETELY TRUST MEN BECAUSE OF PAST EVENT.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING I DECIDED ON A WHIM.
SHE'S THE WOMAN I'VE DECIDED ON AS MY LIFELONG PARTNER.
RIDICULOUS!!
I MUST SHOW HER MORE OF MY SINCERITY.
MAYBE SHE'S SEEN THROUGH TO MY WEAK-NESS
WEAK-NESS?
AND TO THINK SHE WOULD DOUBT YOU, WHO HOLDS SUCH TRUST FROM ALL, NO MATTER THEIR STANDING!!
YOUR FAMILY'S STATUS IS HIGHER THAN KOYOU-SAMA'S!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE, THEN NO ONE IN THIS WORLD DOES, TORUKI-SAMA.
AGAIN, YOU JEST...
MY LACK OF CONFIDENCE!
NO, NO...
DOESN'T THAT SHOW THAT I'M LACKING IN CONFIDENCE AS A MAN?
THE FACT THAT I CHASED HER HERE SO SHE DOESN'T HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART...
I HOPE NOT...
KOYOU-SAMA DOESN'T DOUBT YOU, TORUKI-SAMA
.....


THAT LOOKS LIKE A SHIP FROM OUR COUNTRY OF JIN? WHO IS IT?
AH, TORIKI-SAMA!

WHERE IS KOYOU NOW?
DON'T TELL KOYOU OF MY ARRIVAL UNTIL SHE IS ABOUT TO RETURN HOME
SHH...!!
AH WELL...
I WANT TO SURPRISE HER ON THE RETURN TRIP

WHAT?!
KOYOU'S BEEN KIDNAPPED BY A WA?!!

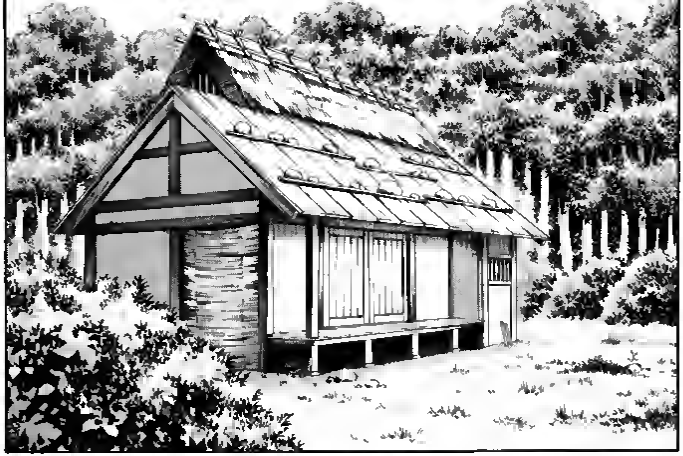
MANSION HIRAIZUMI
THEY SAY THAT BENKEI HAS KIDNAPPED KOYOU-DONO.
AND THAT'S HOW KOYOU-DONO DISAPPEARED FROM THE MANSION IN THE NORTHERN PART OF TOWN.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHERE BENKEI MIGHT BE?
HOO
EH
HO

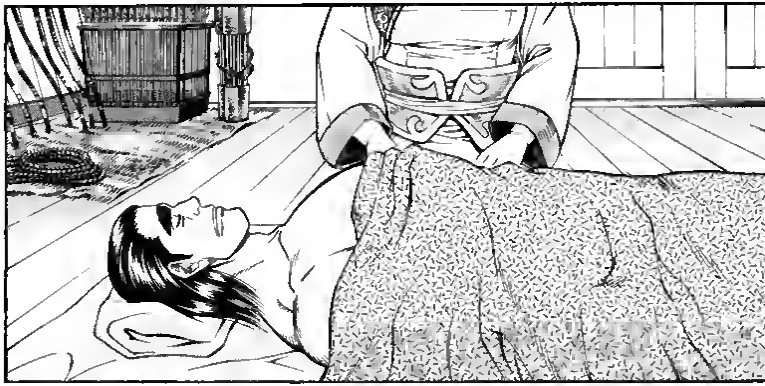
I DO NOT!!
TORUKI-SAMA ASKS IF YOU ARE SURE THAT HE IS NOT HIDING SOME-WHERE
IT SEEMS BENKEI IS RETAINER TO THAT PERSON
FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT BENKEI KIDNAPPED THE PRINCESS!!
I DON'T KNOW.

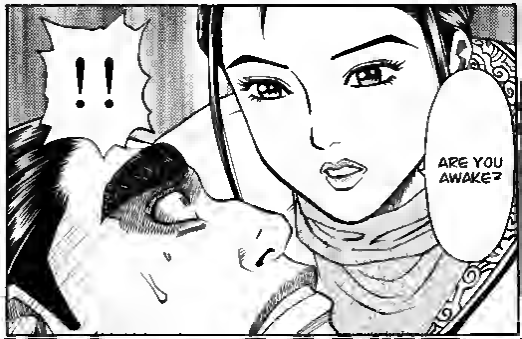
BENKEI HAS BEEN CAUGHT UP IN SOMETHING.
HE WOULD TRY TO HELP HER, BUT HE WOULDN'T KIDNAP HER!!
WHAT?!
HOW?!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
BECAUSE THAT'S BENKEI!!!
!!

IF BY SOME CHANCE BENKEI HAS KIDNAPPED THE PRINCESS, I WILL OFFER MY HEAD TO THE COUNTRY OF JIN.
YOU CAN USE ME AS A KEMARI!!!
YOU CAN TAKE MINE, TOO!!
S-SUCH CONFIDENCE IS BENKEI A MAN WORTHY OF SUCH TRUST?!
.....

TORUKI-DONO.
WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO SEARCH FOR THEM AS WELL
PLEASE BE PATIENT
:
BENKEI HAS BEEN MADE OUT TO BE THE PRINCESS'S KIDNAPPER
THIS IS PERFECT
FIND THEM AND KILL THEM BOTH
YES!!






!!
ARE YOU AWAKE?

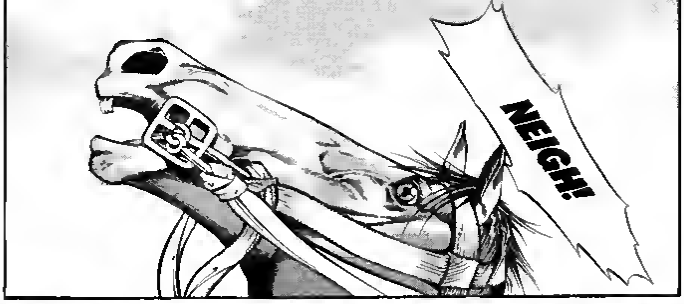
Ugh...

AAGH!!
STAY DOWN. YOUR WOUND WILL OPEN.
K-KOYOU-DONO!!
TH-THIS IS...
I'VE STOPPED THE BLEEDING FOR NOW.
.....
K-KOYOU-DONO...
DON'T PAY ME ANY MIND...
PLEASE GO BACK TO THE MANSION.

I WILL NOT ABANDON ONE TO WHOM I OWE A DEBT AND LEAVE.
N-NO, I JUST DID THAT OF MY OWN ACCORD
THEN I WILL DO THIS OF MY OWN ACCORD AS WELL
SIGH

IT SEEMS THIS HOUSE IS USED FOR HUNTING.
THERE IS A SMALL RIVER FLOWING IN THE BACK AS WELL. WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED HERE.
WE'LL HIDE HERE FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS UNTIL YOU CAN MOVE.
THEN THE TWO OF US CAN MAKE IT TO HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S PLACE.
THAT WAY, THE ENEMY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LAY A HAND ON US...
AND I WILL BE ABLE TO RETURN TO MY COUNTRY UNDER HIDEHIRA-SAMA'S PROTECTION.
IT'S FINE AS LONG AS I RETURN IN TIME FOR THE WEDDING IN A MONTH.
BUT WON'T YOUR FAMILY WORRY IF YOU DO NOT RETURN SOON?
WEDDING ?

!!!
MY...
WEDDING CEREMONY
.....
I...
I see.
That is...
Congratulations...


NEIGH!

HAVE YOU FOUND KOYOU?!

NO, NOT YET
THOSE WHO ARE ABLE TO SPEAK THE WA LANGUAGE ARE GOING AROUND QUESTIONING PEOPLE
GRR... FIND KOYOU SAFE AND SOUND, NO MATTER WHAT!
BUT YOU MUSTN'T KILL THE ONE WHO KIDNAPPED HER!

I WILL SHOW HIM HELL...
AND END HIM WITH MY OWN TWO HANDS!!
IT SEEMS AN OLD WOMAN SAW A LARGE MAN AND A WOMAN...
ENTER THIS MOUNTAIN AT DAWN!!
TORUKI-SAMA!
BUT THERE WAS ONE ODD THING...
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?! IS IT THE MAN WHO KIDNAPPED KOYOU?!
THAT BENKEI?!

ACCORDING TO THE OLD WOMAN...
IT SEEMS THE WOMAN WAS SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING THE MAN AS THEY WENT ALONG.
SHE SAID IT WAS AS IF SHE WERE TRYING TO...
HELP THE MAN WHO WAS INJURED.
!?
WH-WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHO KNOWS?
ザッ ザッ ザッ

DOES YOUR WOUND HURT?
IT'S FINE.
IT SURE IS PEACEFUL.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I'M RUNNING AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE AFTER MY LIFE.
WHAT IS THAT CHIRPING?
I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH CHIRPING IN THE COUNTRY OF JIN.
THAT'S A LESSER CUCKOO.

YOU'RE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH BIRDS.
THE ONE CHIRPING THERE IS A COMMON CUCKOO
THERE'S AN ORIENTAL CUCKOO CHIRPING AS WELL.

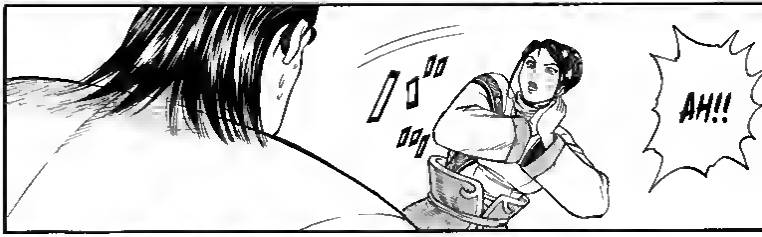
I SEE... HE WAS ALWAYS ALONE...

WHAT COMFORTED ME WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPENED WHILE I WAS IN THE TEMPLE ON THE MOUNTAIN,
WERE THE BIRDS AND RABBITS AND OTHER ANIMALS THERE

ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO CATCH THEM FOR YOU.
N-NO, YOU MUST N'T CATCH THEM!!

No...
IF YOU LIKE THEM SO MUCH, WOULDN'T YOU ENJOY THEM MORE NEAR YOU?
WHY NOT?
That they're able to share a piece of their happiness.
It's because the birds are in the wild .
THERE ARE NO MEN WHO THINK LIKE YOU...
WE MAINLY SURVIVE THROUGH HUNTING IN MY COUNTRY OF JIN, SO BIRDS ARE CONSIDERED FOOD.
...

I'm sorry...
I...
BUT THOSE KIND FEELINGS ARE NICE, TOO!
LOOK OUT!!
AH!
THEN I'LL QUIETLY LEAVE THEM BE.
!!!


AH!!

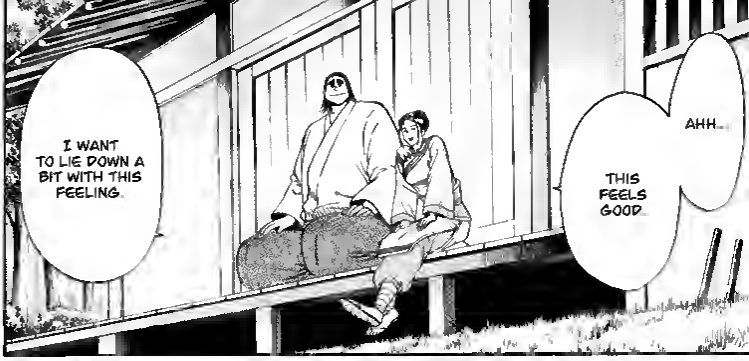
IT'S UNSIGHTLY, ISN'T IT...?
IT'S A PUNISHMENT FOR MY FOOLISH SELF...
I RECEIVED THIS WOUND IN THE FIST WHEN I TRIED TO DIE...
EH?
I WANT TO GET RID OF IT...
THIS SCAR...
KOYOU-DONO HAD SUCH A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE, TOO...

IF YOU RECEIVE A DEEP SCAR TO EITHER...
THEY DO NOT DISAPPEAR, EVEN WHEN THEY HEAL.
YOUR BODY
YOUR HEART...
BUT...
BECAUSE YOU HAVE THAT SCAR.
THE CURRENT YOU IS HERE RIGHT NOW

THAT SCAR.
YOU MUSTN'T HATE...
I'M UNABLE TO COMPLETELY TRUST THE MEN THAT APPROACH ME.
IT'S TRUE. BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE CONFIDENCE...
THAT IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE?
ARE YOU SAYING I'M FINE AS I AM NOW...?

EVEN WITHOUT SPEAKING MUCH...
HE UNDERSTANDS ME...
HE KNOWS HOW IT FEELS.
BECAUSE HE ALSO HAS A SCAR IN HIS HEART...
ドクン
ドクン
YOU'RE RIGHT.

I DO NOT NEED THIS CLOTH TO HIDE THIS SCAR...
BEFORE YOU!
YES!!
THIS IS REFRESH-ING


I WANT TO LIE DOWN A BIT WITH THIS FEELING.
AHH...
THIS FEELS GOOD.

IT'S FINE.
AH!
I'LL PREPARE THE BED, RIGHT.
EH?
LEND ME YOUR LAP.

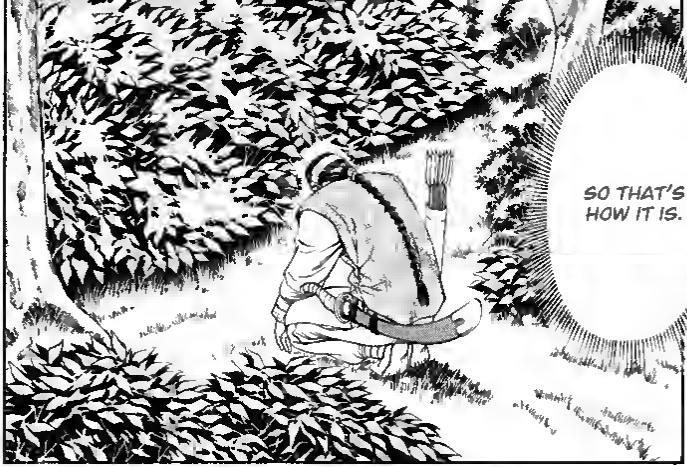
ストン

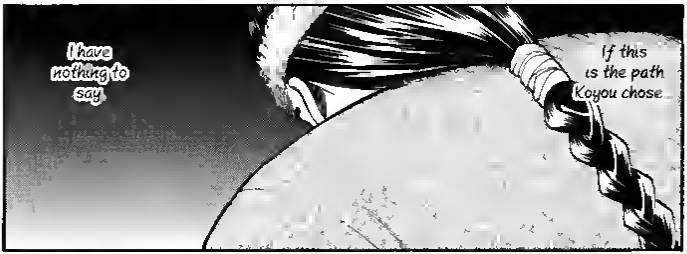
I WON'T SLEEP. I'LL JUST REST A BIT.
THIS IS FINE.

※THE JURCHEN: THE PEOPLE FROM THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF CHINA WHO ESTABLISHED THE COUNTRY OF JIN.

IS FAST ASLEEP WITH THE SCAR ON HER NECK EXPOSED!!
WH-WHAT IS THIS?! TO THINK THAT KOYOU...
LOOKS COMPLETELY AT EASE!!
AND HER SLEEPING FACE...
SO THAT'S BENKEI
SUCH A PEACEFUL APPEARANCE THAT SHE HASN'T EVEN SHOWN ME...

BECAUSE THAT'S BENKEI!!
HE WOULD TRY TO HELP HER, BUT HE WOULDN'T KIDNAP HER!!
FROM A RUNAWAY HORSE.
IT'S TRUE THAT BENKEI SAVED KOYOU-SAMA AND A CHILD...
WAS TRYING TO HELP THE MAN.
IT WAS AS IF THE WOMAN...
TO THINK HE'S A MAN CAPABLE OF MAKING KOYOU SO DEFENSELESS...
HEH


SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

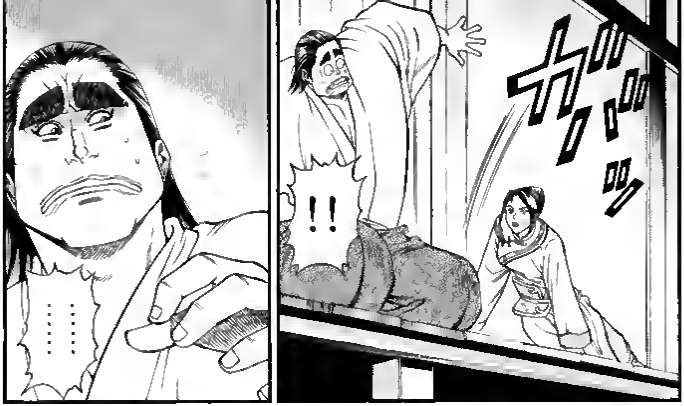

I have nothing to say.
If this is the path Koyou chose

Y-YES

THEY AREN'T HERE WE'RE HEADING BACK

AH, TORUKI-SAMA.
WERE THEY THERE?

I WISH YOU HAPPINESS, KOYOU.


!!

WAS I ASLEEP?!
F-For about half an hour..

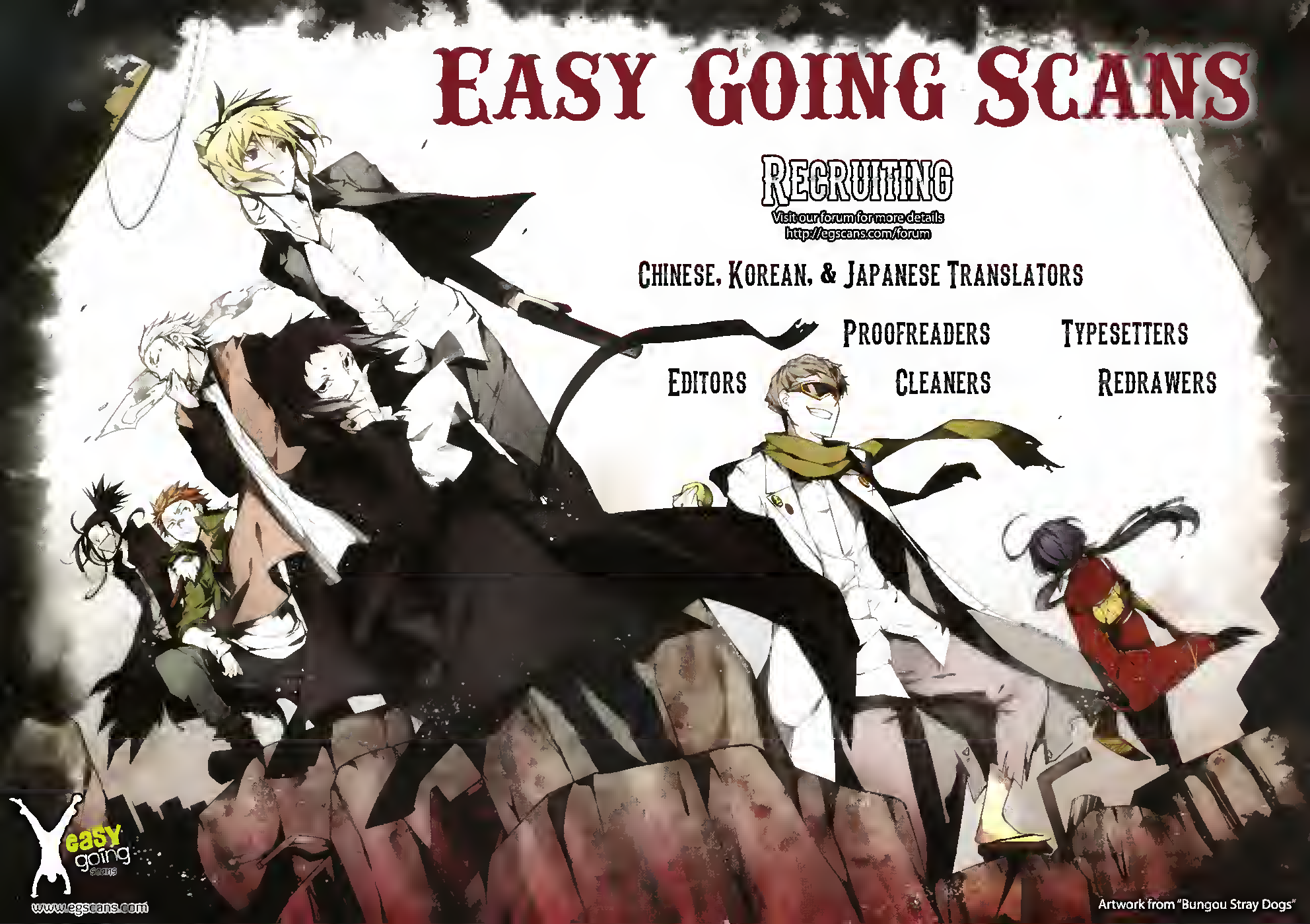
I'm being targeted.
It can't be..
And I'm not even tired. To think that I would fall asleep on a man's lap...

THIS IS A FIRST!!
I...
I'm sorry...
I-I'll get some water to wake you up.
MGH!

KYAH!
I'M SORRY!!
I-I'M SORRY!
MY LEGS WERE ASLEEP, AND...!
ARE YOU HURT?!

I...
I'm all right...
I...
I'm sorry...
.....
.....

THERE THEY ARE!
CHAPTER 58 END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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 59

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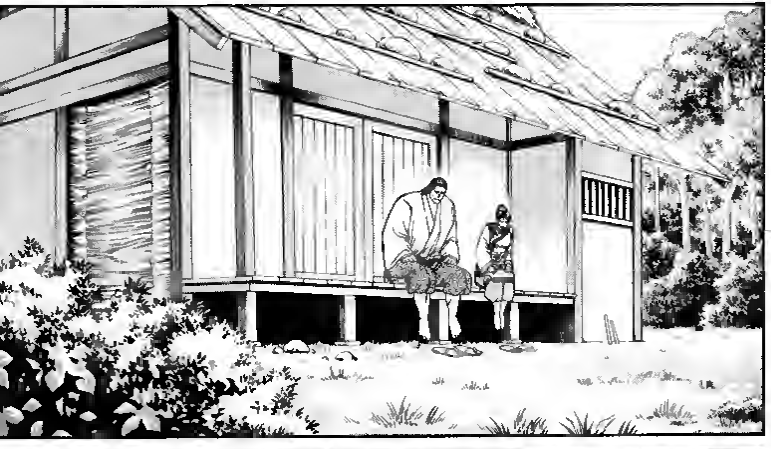
Chapter 59-
Benkei's Love
(Part 3)

THERE THEY ARE!!



W-WERE YOU BORN HERE IN HIRAIZUMI, BENKEI?
EH?

YOSHITSUNE-DONO? THE ONE WHO WAS WITH YOU AT THE HIRAIZUMI MANSION?
HE WAS THE ONE WITH THE SMALL BUILD.
AH, NO.
I CAME TO HIRAZUMI WITH YOSHITSUNE-SAMA.
ALTHOUGH HE IS FROM A NOBLE FAMILY, HE IS NOT ARROGANT. HE'S A KIND AND GENEROUS PERSON
YOSHITSUNE-SAMA WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO CALL ME A FRIEND WHEN I WAS ALL ALONE
LOYAL-TY
HE AS-SIGNED ME THE SYMBOL OF "LOYAL-TY"
AND I BECAME HIS VASSAL

HE SHINED A LIGHT INTO MY DARKNESS.
I WOULD HAVE NO REGRETS GIVING MY LIFE TO HIM!
HAVING FOUND SUCH A MASTER ...
YOU MUST BE HAPPY!
YES
THIS IS THE END FOR YOU!!

YOU REALLY DID A NUMBER ON US YESTERDAY!!
OH NO, THEY'VE FOUND US!!
I'LL HAVE YOU TWO DIE TODAY FOR SURE!!
KOYOU-DONO, PLEASE HIDE INSIDE!!
NO, WE'RE UNARMED!!

EVERYONE, ATTACK!!
JUST GO!!
BUT YOU'RE INJURED!
AH!
HMM?
HMM?
IS THIS?!
WH-WHAT...

WH-WHO DID THIS?!
!!

TORUKI-DONO!!
TORUKI?
WH-WHO ARE YOU, BASTARD?!

I AM A MAN...
OF TENACITY.
B-BASTARD, ARE YOU A FOREIGNER?!!
KILL HIM! KILL HIM, TOO!!
DIE!!
Ah!!
The bow is at a disadvantage at such a close range!!

GAH!!
EH?

ﾋｭｯ
ﾋｭｯ
ｽﾊﾟﾝ
ｽﾊﾟﾝ

WH-WHO IS TH T PERSON?

...

A-AMAZING!!
HE SHOT THEM QUICKER THAN THEY COULD CUT HIM!
SUCH AMAZING SKILL!!

!!!
THAT IS MY FIANCÉ.

RUSTLE?
I'M FINE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU
T-TORUKI-DONO, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
!?
IS THIS THE CULPRIT?
I HEAR THAT YOU WERE KIDNAPPED

HE SAVED ME FROM THE ENEMIES BY HIMSELF, EVEN WHILE BEING WOUNDED!
HE IS NOT A BAD PERSON!!
N-NO!!
BENKEI RESCUED ME! HE IS MY SAVIOR!!
EH?
YOU'RE COVERING FOR HIM RATHER DESPERATELY
Step
TH-THAT WASN'T
REALLY MY INTENTION

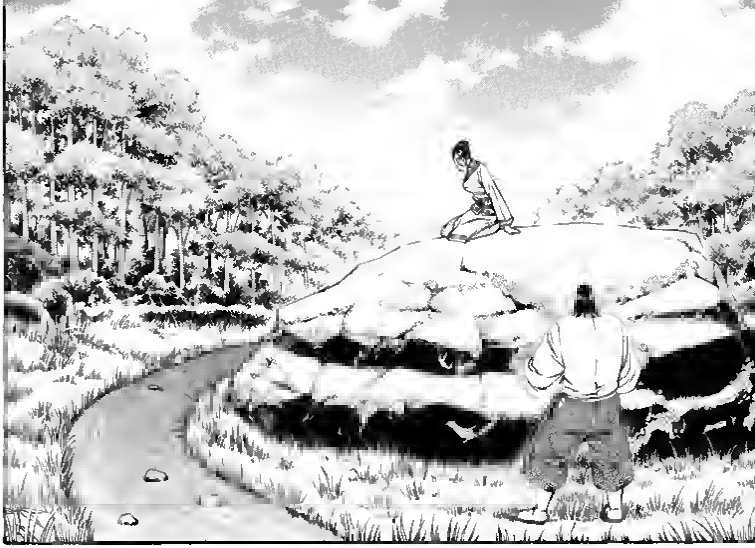
WH-WHAT DID HE SAY?
TAKING ON THE ENEMIES TO PROTECT KOYOU WHILE BEING INJURED WAS A MAGNIFICENT ACT.
AS A MAN, I ACKNOWLEDGE YOU... IS WHAT HE SAID.
TH-
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
WITH THIS, I HAVE A GENERAL GRASP OF THE SITUATION.
AND SO, KOYOU

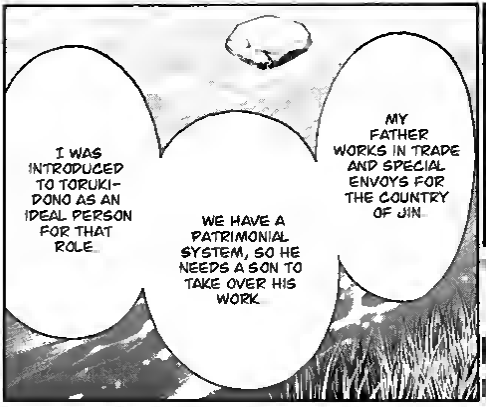
WHO DO YOU CHOOSE?
BENKEI OR MYSELF...
EH?
TH-THAT IS
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART.
I DON'T NEED ANY ROUNDABOUT EXCUSE OR REASONING.

I WON'T ASK TO MAKE A DECISION RIGHT AWAY
I WILL WAIT TWO DAYS
IF YOU WILL RETURN TO MY SIDE, COME BACK TO THE NORTHERN MANSION IN TWO DAYS.
WE'LL RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF JIN TOGETHER
AND
IF YOU CHOOSE BENKEI
HAVE HIM COME TO THE MANSION
WH-WHAT WILL DO YOU DO BENKEI?
DON'T WORRY

I'M JUST GOING TO HIT HIM ONCE
.....
WHOEVER YOU CHOOSE, YOUR FEELINGS MATTER MOST
I RESPECT THAT
I'LL BE WAITING, KOYOU
.....

K-KOYOU-DONO,
WHAT DID TORUKI-DONO SAY?
HE TOLD ME TO CHOOSE BETWEEN YOU AND HIM.
WHAT?!
THAT'S ABSURD!!
DID HE MISTAKE OUR RELATIONSHIP?!
I'LL STOP HIM AND TELL HIM IT'S A MIS-UNDERSTANDING!!
WAIT, BENKEI!!
EH?
KOYOU-DONO?




I WAS INTRODUCED TO TORUKI-DONO AS AN IDEAL PERSON FOR THAT ROLE.
WE HAVE A PATRIMONIAL SYSTEM, SO HE NEEDS A SON TO TAKE OVER HIS WORK.
MY FATHER WORKS IN TRADE AND SPECIAL ENVOYS FOR THE COUNTRY OF JIN.

K-
KOYOU-DONO?

……

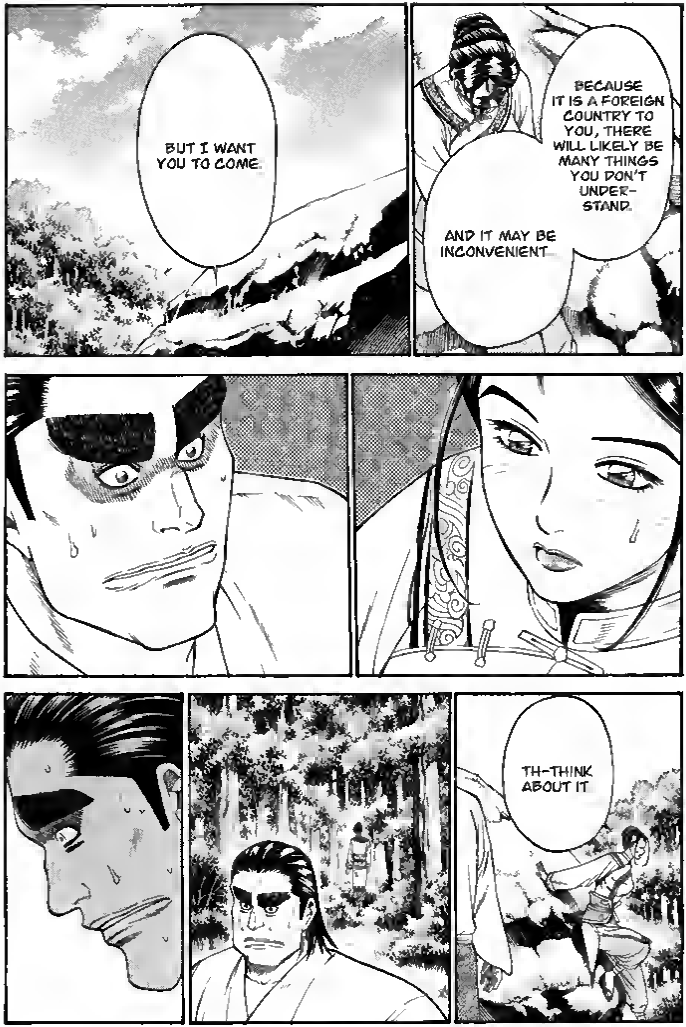
……

AND MY FATHER HAS GROWN OLD, AND HE IS NOT DOING WELL. BECAUSE I CANNOT POSSIBLY LEAVE HIM ALONE LIKE THAT...
I ABSOLUTELY MUST RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF JIN.
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS 10
THERE IS ONLY MY FATHER AND MYSELF IN MY FAMILY.
YES
Y-
.....

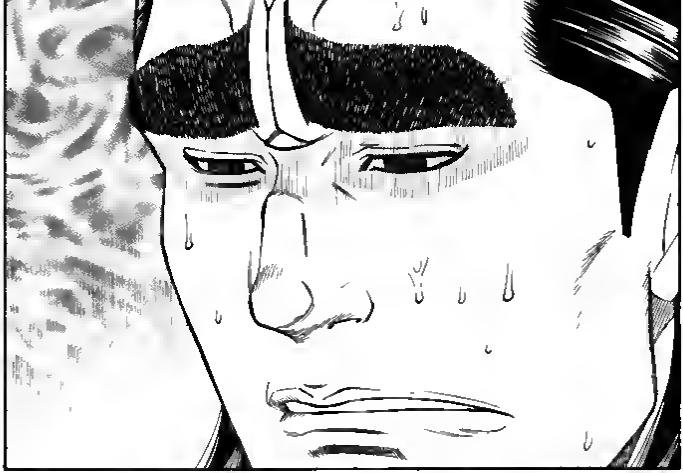
But
I must choose my path after giving this more thought
No I mustn't act on fleeting emotions
B-BENKEI
ANSWER ME HONESTLY.
O-OKAY

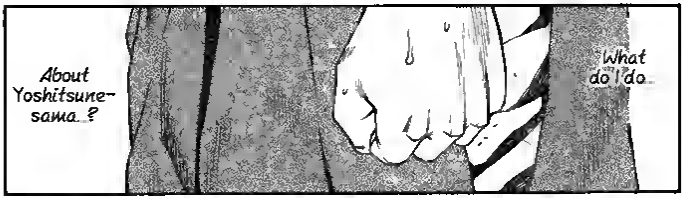
EH?
D-DO YOU
LOVE ME?
DO YOU WANT TO BE WITH ME?
EH!
AH!
THAT IS!
UMM!
YES!
...

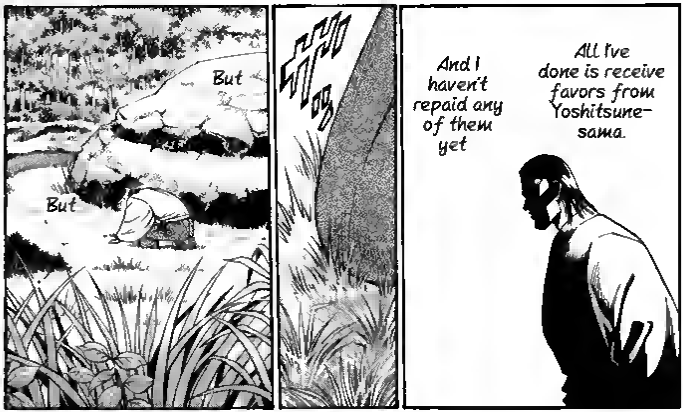
WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO THE COUNTRY OF JIN?
!!!


BUT I WANT YOU TO COME.
BECAUSE IT IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY TO YOU, THERE WILL LIKELY BE MANY THINGS YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
AND IT MAY BE INCONVENIENT.
TH-THINK ABOUT IT

Does that mean she chooses me over Toruki-dono?
Telling me to come to the country of Jin?
My word!! Together forever with Koyou-dono...
Does that mean we can be a couple?!!
UOHH!!
AH!



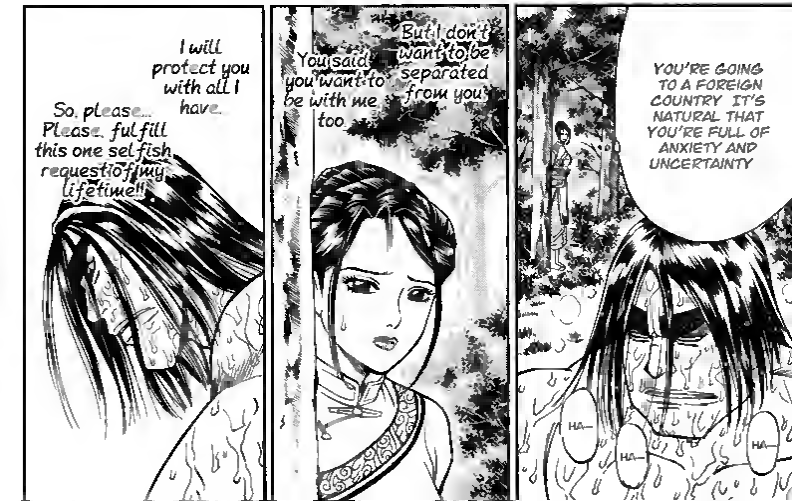

What do I do...
About Yoshitsune-sama...?


All I've done is receive favors from Yoshitsune-sama.
And I haven't repaid any of them yet
But
But

ホホー

WHERE DID HE GO?
HE'S NOT HERE. DID HE NOT RETURN?

ハァハァ


I will protect you with all I have.
So, please... Please, fulfill this one selfish request of my lifetime!!
You said you want to be with me too.
But I don't want to be separated from you.
YOU'RE GOING TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY. IT'S NATURAL THAT YOU'RE FULL OF ANXIETY AND UNCERTAINTY
HA—
HA—
HA—

OUCH!
MY SEWING IS CLUMSY...
BUT IF I'M TO BE A WIFE, I MUST TRY HARDER!
THERE!

ギュッ
……
パラッ
ポト

ホー
ホー

If she returns to her country with me, Koyou-dono will be criticized and be put in a difficult position.
I'm fine. If I can be with Koyou-dono...
I can endure any harsh treatment.

No!!
Yoshitsune-sama is important too, but that's my own affair.
I have to think more about Koyou-dono than myself!!

How can I protect Koyou-dono in a place where I can't even communicate?!
But what will become of Koyou-dono?
The answer is obvious
Toruki-dono and myself. Who would she be happier with...?
I don't want to make Koyou-dono unhappy

I HAVE DECIDED!!
BENKEI.
K-KOYOU-DONO.

M-MY RESOLVE WILL...
IF I MEET HER GAZE...
I CAN'T...
AHH
I WANT TO STAY WITH THIS PERSON FOREVER!!
I WANT TO STAY!!
HAVE YOU DECIDED?

NO MATTER WHAT, I...
NO MATTER WHAT HARDSHIPS THERE MAY BE...
I WANT TO BE WITH THIS PERSON!!
I-I!
I...!
HAVE YOU DECIDED TO COME TO THE COUNTRY OF JIN?

YOU CAN'T, CAN YOU?!!
EH?
!!

TH-THIS IS...
YOU ARE YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO'S VASSAL
YOU CANNOT BETRAY YOUR MASTER.
Loyalty
A loyal person will have a steadfast heart, and will never harbor hidden motives towards his master.

YOU ARE ONE OF LOYALTY WHO DOES NOT BETRAY
THAT IS WHO YOU ARE, BENKEI!!
I FORCED YOU TO WEIGH MYSELF WITH YOSHITSUNE-DONO...
DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE CANNOT BE COMPARED

I'VE GIVEN UP ON TAKING YOU WITH ME
IT MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT
I'M SORRY I CONFUSED YOU
I want you..

BE A MAN OF LOYALTY...
TO ALWAYS...
UGH...
FOR MY SAKE,
KOYOU-DONO...
YOU...

IS THIS ALL RIGHT? IS THIS REALLY OKAY?!
IS IT OKAY FOR IT TO END THIS WAY?!
EVEN THOUGH YOU LOVE HER?!!
BENKEI...
LIFT YOUR HEAD
WHAT?!!

THIS IS ME.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SHOWN MYSELF LIKE THIS TO ANOTHER PERSON

DON'T LOOK AWAY
AHH

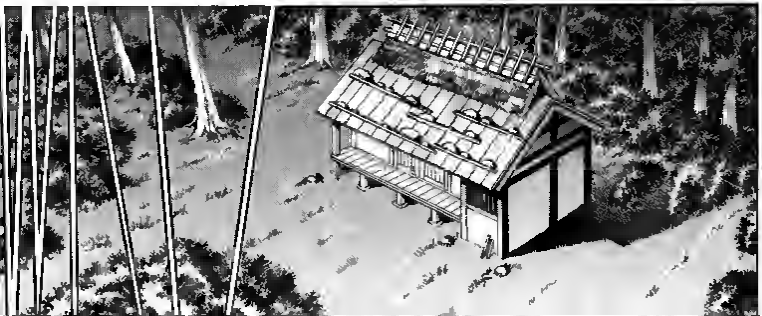
スッ
ギュッ

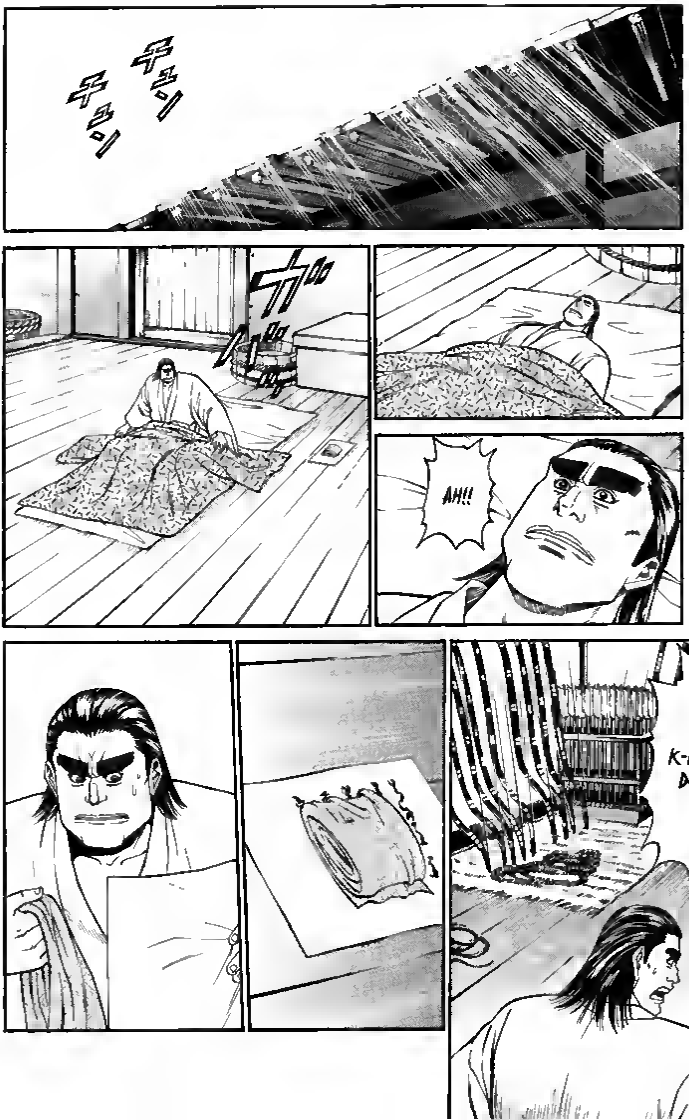
DON'T FORGET ME

I WON'T...
FORGET YOU, EITHER.

KOYOU-DONO!!
I WON'T FORGET.
I WON'T...
FORGET!!

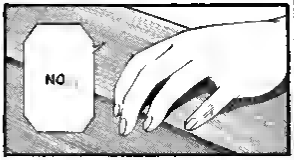
LOVE YOU...
I ALSO...



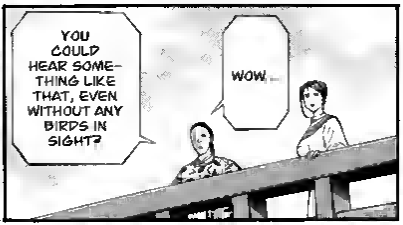

AH!!
K-KOYOU-DONO?!

KOYOU-DONO!!
Please take it as a sign that we are a couple at heart.
This cloth which you had me remove.
Koyou
!!
HAA
HAA
HAA

KOYOU-DONO, WHAT IS IT...
THAT YOU KEEP LOOKING AT? IS SOMETHING THERE?


NO.

I JUST THOUGHT THAT I HEARD THE SAD CRIES OF A BIRD...


YOU COULD HEAR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, EVEN WITHOUT ANY BIRDS IN SIGHT?
WOW...

IT'S A GOOD THING KOYOU-DONO WAS ABLE TO RETURN SAFELY, ISN'T IT?
TORUK! -SAMA
YES
I'LL SLOWLY REMOVE THAT LOAD FOR HER AFTER WE RETURN
ALTHOUGH SHE HAS A BIT OF A HEAVY LOAD WEIGHING DOWN ON HER HEART
EH?
HII
HII
HII
HII

BEEN A WHILE!
YO!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU WENT FOR A LONG WALK, RIGHT?
I-I'm sorry... For disappearing suddenly...
IT'S FINE.
GEH!!
I HEARD YOU WERE DUMPED
THERE ARE TONS OF NICE WOMEN IN THIS WORLD!
I-IT'S ALL RIGHT, BENKEI!
YOU IDIOT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING STABBING WHERE IT HURTS?!
WHY DON'T YOU COMFORT HIM?!!

THERE'LL BE A BUNCH OF GIRLS WHO'LL LIKE YOU FROM HERE ON OUT!
TEN, MAYBE EVEN A HUNDRED OF THEM!!
EH?
NO, I WILL NO LONGER LOVE
ONE LOVE
100 LOVES.
IT'S ALL THE SAME!!

I GUESS LITTLE KIDS WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHO'S A LITTLE KID?!!
HUH?
IT MEANS THERE'S NO WOMAN...
HE CAN LOVE MORE THAN KOYOU.
WAS AS INTENSE AS 100 LOVES. THAT'S WHAT THAT MEANS.
FOR BENKEI, THIS ONE LOVE...
YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA.
MORI-DONO
KOYOU-SAN MUST BE HAPPY, TOO!!
BUT TO BE LOVED THAT MUCH...
HMM

MY BODY HAS BECOME DULL AS OF LATE.
I MUST TRAIN SO MY BODY IS READY WHEN NEEDED
パシッ
NOW, LET US TRAIN.
FOR MY DEAREST WISH!!
CHAPTER 59 END

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by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 60

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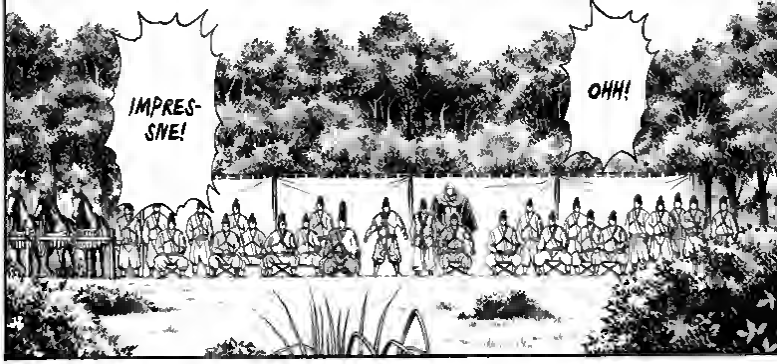
Chapter 60
The Power of Horse Riding

HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
MANSION HIRAIZUMI
I HAVE COME TO GIVE MY APOLOGIES.
ALTHOUGH THIS INCIDENT ENDED SAFELY, BECAUSE MY VASSAL BENKEI WAS INVOLVED,
I APOLO-GIZE,
FOR THE COMMOTION I CAUSED
YES, I HAVE HEARD EVERY-THING

EH?
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE, BENKEI-DONO
NO, NO
N-No, I didn't do anything...
I GIVE YOU MY THANKS, BENKEI-DONO.
BECAUSE YOU WERE INVOLVED, THIS ENDED WITHOUT ANY HINDRANCE IN OUR EXCHANGE WITH THE COUNTRY OF JIN.
ALTHOUGH THE RINGLEADER OF THIS INCIDENT WAS ONE OF MY ATTENDANTS,
HE AND HIS ACCOMPLICES HAVE ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED AND DISPOSED OF

This resilient spirit... So Hidehira-sama really is a military leader who hasn't forgotten his warrior's spirit...
.....
THOSE WHO BETRAY ME WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN!
YES IT'S BEEN A WHILE LET US SPEND SOME TIME OUTDOORS, YOSHITSUNE-DONO
A HUNT, IS IT?
THAT'S TRUE SHALL WE HAVE A HUNT FOR TRAINING?
I CAN'T ALLOW THE PEOPLE OF MY OSHU TO CARELESSLY LET THEIR SKILLS GROW DULL, EITHER
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I HEAR YOU WERE RATHER STRONG, BENKEI-DONO.
N-NO...
A HUNT?
EH?

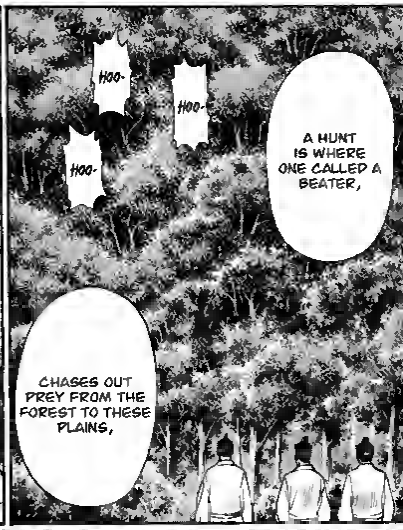
SEVERAL DAYS LATER
HERE IT IS!!
OH!
HAA!!


IMPRES-
SIVE!
OHH!

WELL, YOU SPENT YOUR DAYS IN A TEMPLE,
SO IT'S NO WONDER YOU ARE UNAWARE, YOSHITSUNE-DONO.

THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME, YASUHIRA-DONO!
I SEE! SO THIS IS A HUNT!

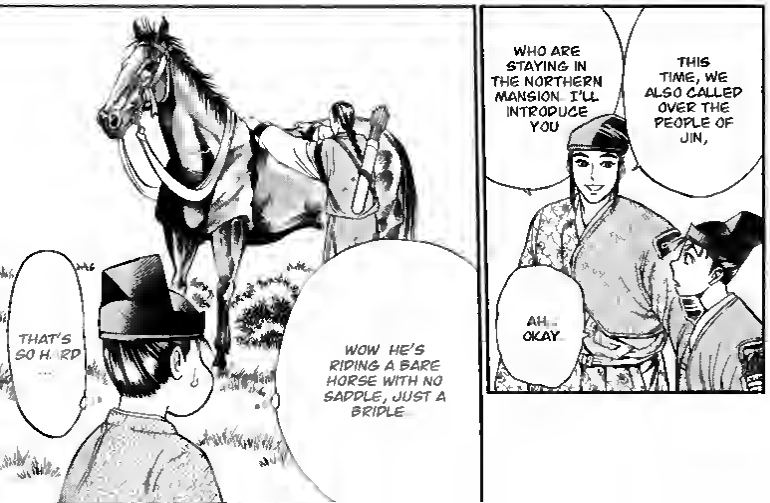
IT'S A FORM OF PRACTICE FOR BATTLE.
AND THOSE ON HORSEBACK TAKE THEM DOWN.


HOO-
HOO-
HOO-
A HUNT IS WHERE ONE CALLED A BEATER,
CHASES OUT PREY FROM THE FOREST TO THESE PLAINS,

WOW, LOOKS INTERESTING. I THINK I CAN DO IT TOO, SINCE I'M GOOD AT HORSE-BACK RIDING.
OH, I'VE BROUGHT MY CHERISHED HORSE HERE AS WELL. YOU WON'T OUTDO ME.
YOU WILL HAVE A HARD TIME IF YOU CAN'T PROPERLY CONTROL THE HORSE.
PRACTICE FOR BATTLE!!
OHH-
IS MY BELOVED HORSE.
THE ONE TETHERED THERE,
AHH, THAT'S LIKELY BECAUSE THEY'RE RAISED IN THESE WIDE LANDS OF OSHU,
AND BECAUSE THEY ARE CROSSBRED WITH OTHER BREEDS.
THIS HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR A WHILE, BUT THE HORSES IN OSHU,
IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE ALL BIGGER THAN THE HORSES IN THE CAPITAL. WHY IS THAT?
OTHER BREEDS?

EH?
THE HORSES OF THOSE COMING LATE, THERE

I see. They really are huge...
So, with horses from Jin...
People of Jin.
Th-That hairstyle.


WHO ARE STAYING IN THE NORTHERN MANSION. I'LL INTRODUCE YOU
THIS TIME, WE ALSO CALLED OVER THE PEOPLE OF JIN,
AH... OKAY...
WOW. HE'S RIDING A BARE HORSE WITH NO SADDLE, JUST A BRIDLE...
THAT'S SO H...RD ....

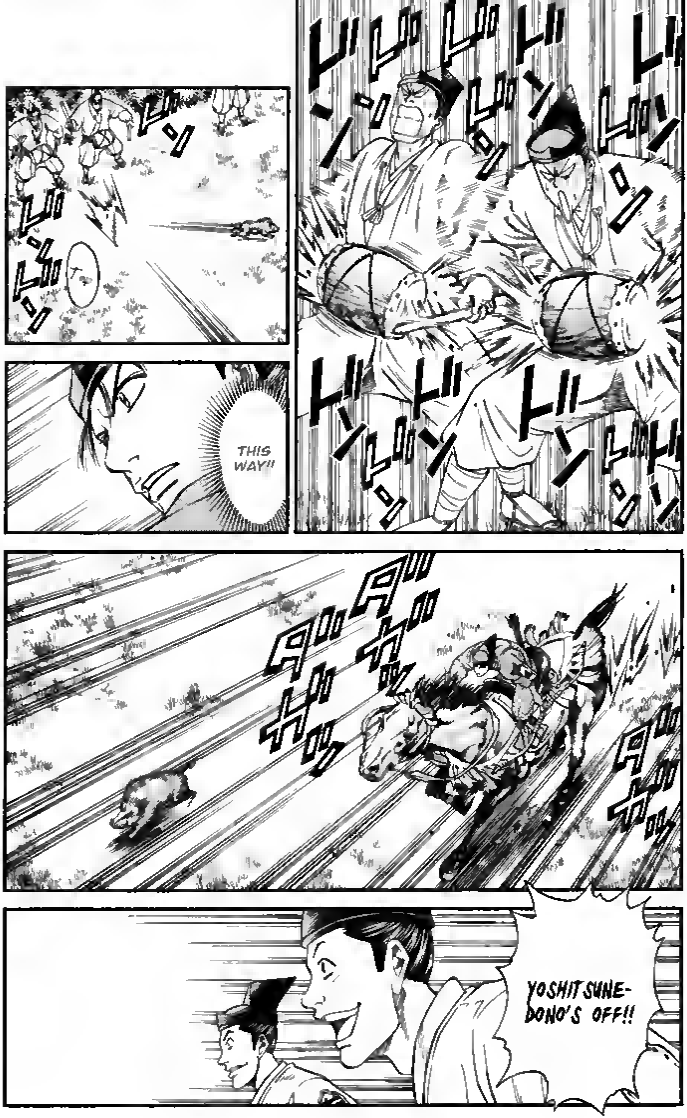
AH.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THIS HERE IS MINAMOTO NO YOSHITSUNE-DONO.
LIAN-DONO, THANK YOU FOR COMING.
I AM LIAN.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
YOSHITSUNE-DONO, THIS IS LIAN-DONO FROM THE COUNTRY OF JIN.
THE BENKEI WE SPOKE OF
LIAN-DONO, THAT IS,
WHAT?
BE SURE NOT TO BE RUDE!
JUST AS KOYOU-SAMA INSTRUCTED,
YES!
IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.

I AM CALLED LIAN
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE RUDENESS OF THE PEOPLE OF MY COUNTRY DURING THIS PAST INCIDENT
I AM PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE
O-
OKAY...
WHAT? BENKEI'S BEING TREATED WITH MORE RESPECT THAN ME!
WHAT CAN YOU DO?
HE'S A HERO WHO SAVED THEIR PRINCESS, AND YOU'RE A TINY MAN WITH SHORT LEGS...
DON'T CALL ME TINY!!
HMM, AND HE DIDN'T EVEN SMILE AT ME
KIND OF IRRITATING

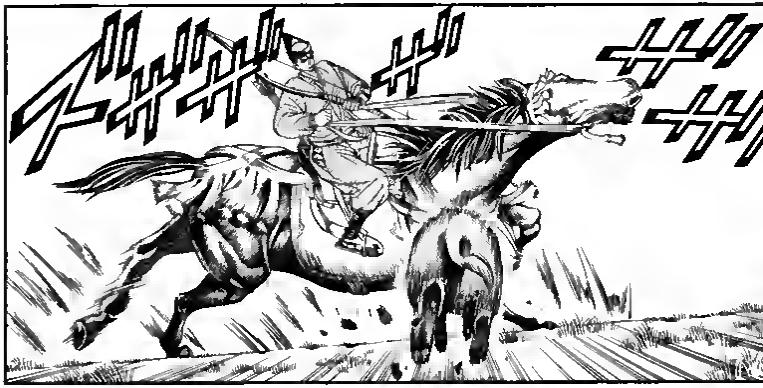
YASUHIRA, YOSHITSUNE-DONO.
HERE COMES THE PREY.
HOW ABOUT,
YOU TWO TRY TAKING IT DOWN?
ALL RIGHT!!
LET US GO, YOSHITSUNE-DONO!!
Rustle
Rustle
ALL RIGHT, I'LL SHOW MYSELF OFF TO THE PEOPLE OF JIN AND LET THEM KNOW I'M BENKEI'S MASTER!!
OKAY!!

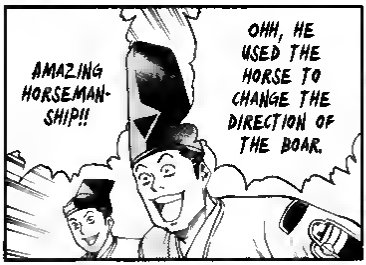
IT'S OUT!!
OHH, YASUHIRA-SAMA'S UP!!
YOU'RE MINE!!
Ugh, I got a slow start!!

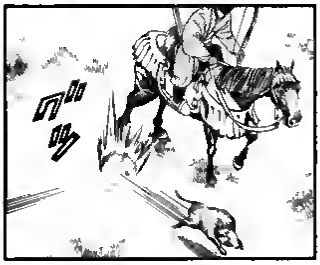
AH!!
IT'S RUNNING FOR THE FOREST!
DON'T LET IT GET AWAY!!
HE MISSED !!
AHH, SO CLOSE!


THIS WAY!!
YOSHIT SUNE-DONO'S OFF!!

DAMN, IT'S HARD TO SHOOT AN ARROW ON MY RIGHT SIDE
I NEED IT TO COME TO MY LEFT




OHH, HE USED THE HORSE TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE BOAR.
AMAZING HORSEMAN-SHIP!!



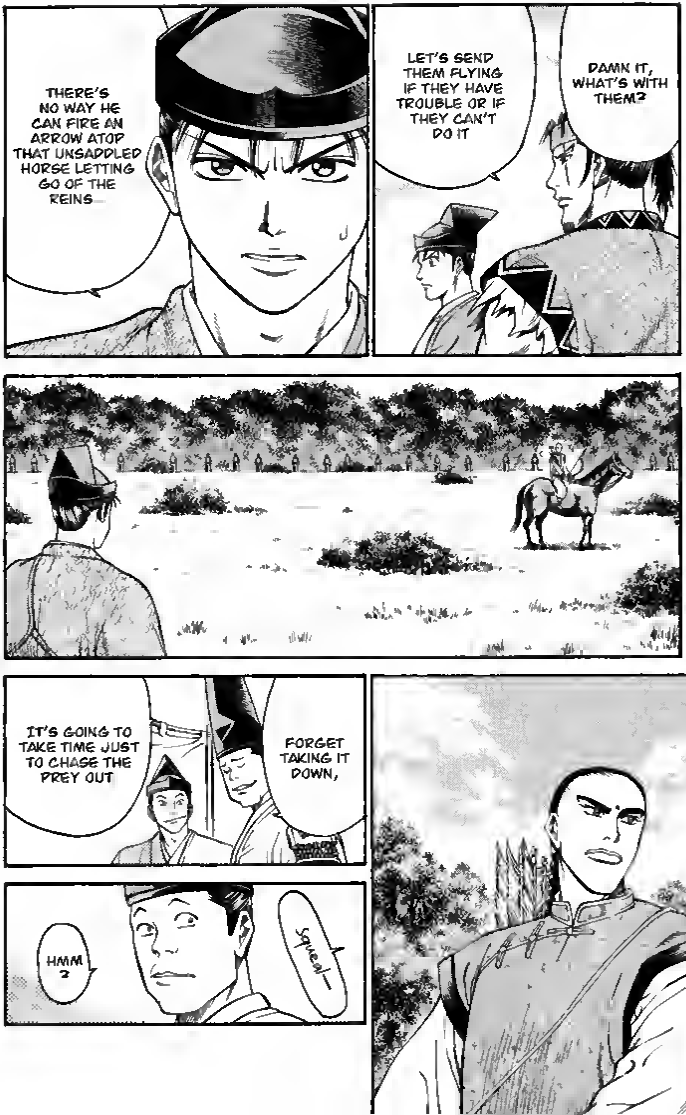
ALL RIGHT, THIS IS IT!!
OHH!
MAGNIFI-CENT!!
SNORT!

PHEW.
SEE ME A BIT DIFFERENTLY NOW?
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, LIAN-SAN?
SO, HE GOT ME
PFFT.

GAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA...
HAHAHAHAHA...
HUH?!

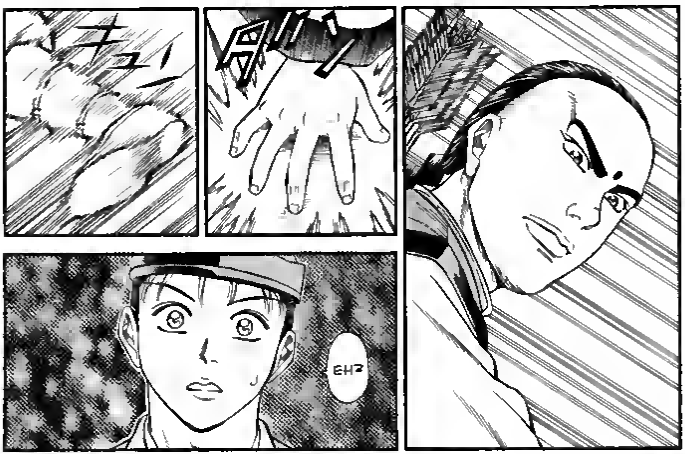
WELL
...
WH-
WHAT'S SO
FUNNY?!
AND YOU
FINALLY GET IT
NOW? I JUST
LOST IT.
YOU HAVE ALL
THESE PEOPLE
FOR ONE BOAR,
WHAT?!
IF IT
WERE US,
IT WOULD ONLY
TAKE TWO.
WHAT
DID YOU
SAY?!

TH-THEN WHY DON'T YOU TRY!!
THIS GUY, MAKING FUN OF US LIKE THAT
ONE OF THE RIDERS WENT INTO THE FOREST
IS HE PLANNING ON TAKING THE ROLE OF THE BEATER?


THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN FIRE AN ARROW ATOP THAT UNSADDLED HORSE LETTING GO OF THE REINS...
LET'S SEND THEM FLYING IF THEY HAVE TROUBLE OR IF THEY CAN'T DO IT
DAMN IT, WHAT'S WITH THEM?
IT'S GOING TO TAKE TIME JUST TO CHASE THE PREY OUT
FORGET TAKING IT DOWN,
HMM ?
Squeal

ARE YOU TELLING ME ONE HORSEMAN ALONE CHASED IT OUT HERE ?!!
I-IT CAME OUT SO QUICKLY!!
WHAT?!
HAA!!

THE OTHER HORSEMAN HAS ALREADY CAUGHT UP WITH IT!!
BUT IT'S ON THE RIGHT SIDE!
UNLESS HE GETS IT ON THE LEFT SIDE LIKE YOSHITSUNE-DONO,
IT'LL BE DIFFICULT TO SHOOT!!


EH?

トゥ
B-
BACKWARDS?!!
!!?

But he even rode backwards and shot an arrow
It takes quite some skill just to ride an unsaddled horse and move it like your own limbs
What was that technique..?
Wh-
THEY DID THE SAME TASK THAT TOOK US DOZENS!!
AND WITH JUST TWO HORSEMEN,

THE PEOPLE OF JIN ARE A GROUP OF HUNTERS HUNTING ON HORSEBACK,
IS SOMETHING THEY DO 2-3 TIMES BETTER THAN THE JAPANESE
AT ANY RATE,
THOSE WERE SPLENDID MOVEMENTS. HE WAS ALMOST LIKE AN ACROBAT
AN ACROBAT!!

THERE YOU HAVE IT
THE JAPANESE HAVE NOT MASTERED HORSEBACK RIDING
YOU UNDERSTAND WHY WE LAUGHED, RIGHT?
SHIT
WHAT WAS THAT, BASTARD?!!

LET'S BLOW THIS GUY AWAY, LOOKING DOWN ON PEOPLE LIKE THAT!!
YEAH!!
PLEASE, STOP!!
Y-YOSHI-TSUNE-DONO!
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LIAN-DONO, PLEASE TEACH ME,
HOW TO RIDE A HORSE!!
EH?
EH?

HEY, YOSHI-TSUNE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
I WANT TO LEARN TO RIDE A HORSE,
AS WELL AS YOU DO, TOO!!
WELL, IF I COULD RIDE A HORSE THAT FREELY,
I WOULD LOOK COOL!!
HUH?

PLEASE,
COULD YOU?!!
N-NO,
WELL...
HEY, BENKEI,
YOU SAY SOMETHING, TOO! THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM, ASKING A GUY LIKE THAT A FAVOR!!
LIAN-DONO

HEY!!
YOU TOO?!
PLEASE, WOULD YOU LISTEN,
TO YOSHI-TSUNE-SAMA'S REQUEST?
...
I-IF BENKEI-DONO WOULD ASK, THEN I CANNOT REFUSE
UNDER-STOOD
IF YOU ARE FINE WITH ME, I WILL TEACH YOU
THANKS, LIAN-SAN!!
YES-!!

WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT SAVING FACE, HE ASKS FOR INSTRUCTION BECAUSE HE WISHES TO LEARN
EVEN IF YOU WANT TO DO THAT, UNLESS YOU HAVE A BIG HEART, IT'S DIFFICULT TO DO
F-FATHER
WHAT
WHAT AN INTERESTING PERSON.
YOSHITSUNE-DONO WILL LIKELY EXHIBIT FINE GROWTH YET
So
He noticed after all.
YES.

So

Because he so bluntly said that I wondered how Yoshitsune would feel once I showed this to him.

WHEN YOU WITNESS THE HORSE RIDING TECHNIQUES OF THE PEOPLE OF JIN, YOU SHOULD SENSE THE LIMITLESS POTENTIAL IT HOLDS FOR GROWTH IN THE ART OF WAR, AND FEEL IT TO BE A NECESSITY

IF YOU ARE ONE WHO WISHES TO IMPROVE EACH DAY AS A WARRIOR,

フフフ

THE GREAT DESIRE DEEP WITHIN HIS HEART...

IT SEEMS HE HAS NOT FORGOTTEN,

IT SEEMS WE'VE GROWN QUITE FOOLISH WITH PEACE...

TO THINK THAT ONE NOT OF OSHU FELT IT TO BE A NECESSITY

ON THE OTHER HAND...

THE NEXT DAY
HAVE YOU EVER RIDDEN A HORSE UN-SADDLED?
OFTEN, WHEN I WAS A KID
OKAY!!
HE'S TOTALLY INTO THIS
THE JAPANESE RELY TOO MUCH ON THE REINS AND SADDLE
I'LL TEACH YOU THE QUICKEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT
OKAY!!
YOU CANNOT MASTER HORSEBACK RIDING UNLESS YOU BECOME ONE WITH AN UNSADDLED HORSE

EH~
I DON'T WANT SOMETHING KIDS DO. I WANT SOMETHING MORE ADVANCED.
IN MY COUNTRY, EVEN CHILDREN RIDE LIKE THIS.
NO PROBLEM
IF EVEN KIDS CAN DO IT,
WELL, GUESS THIS IS ALL RIGHT AT FIRST.
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU,
SO WATCH CAREFULLY.
LET'S GO!!

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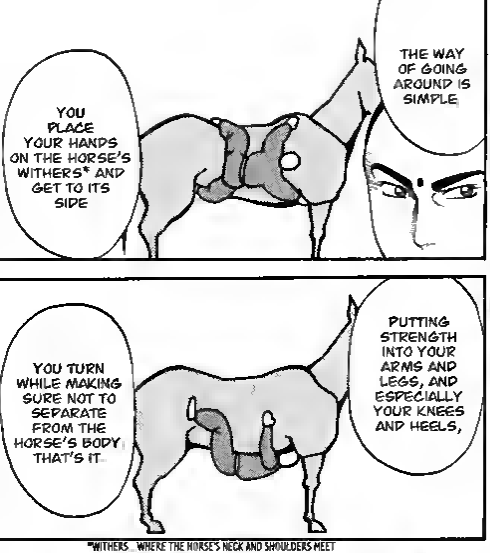
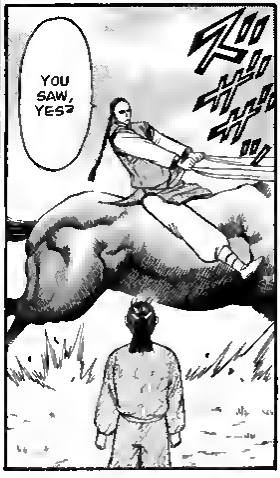
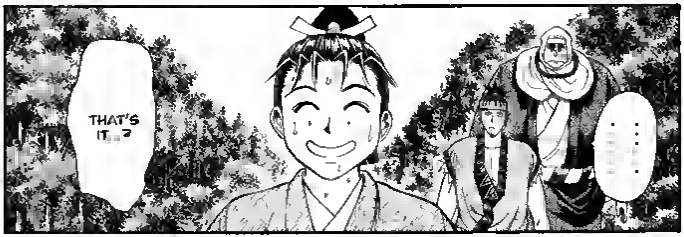
!??

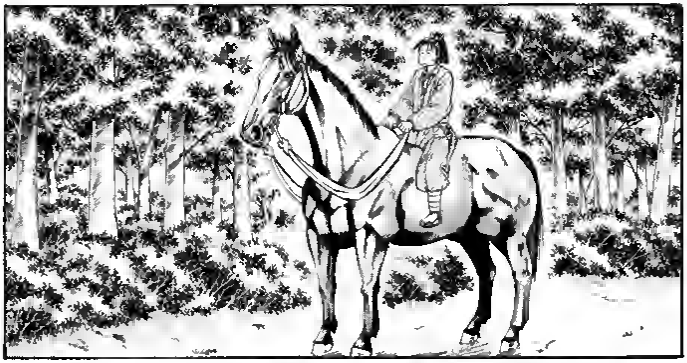
A
WH-WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW...?
HE WENT AROUND THE HORSE'S BODY...
TH-THAT'S ABSURD!!


YOU PLACE YOUR HANDS ON THE HORSE'S WITHERS* AND GET TO ITS SIDE
THE WAY OF GOING AROUND IS SIMPLE.
YOU TURN WHILE MAKING SURE NOT TO SEPARATE FROM THE HORSE'S BODY. THAT'S IT.
PUTTING STRENGTH INTO YOUR ARMS AND LEGS, AND ESPECIALLY YOUR KNEES AND HEELS,



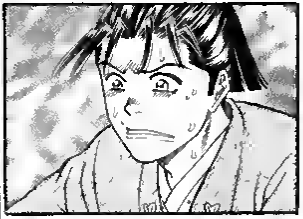
*WITHERS: WHERE THE HORSE'S NECK AND SHOULDERS MEET





COME-!!

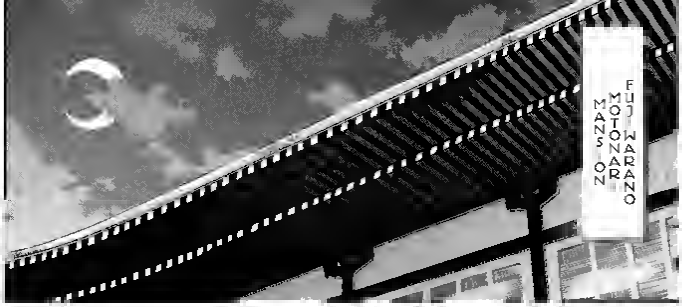
I'LL DO IT!!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN'T DO IT.



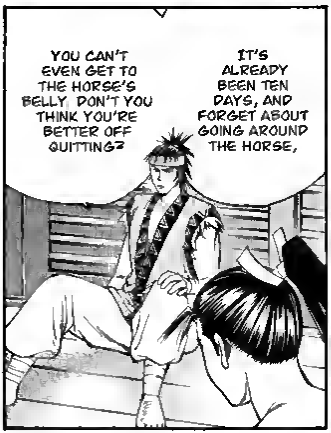
HAA!!
FIRST, I GRAB THE WITHERS.
THEN, WITHOUT SEPARATING FROM THE HORSE,
GET TO ITS SIDE!!

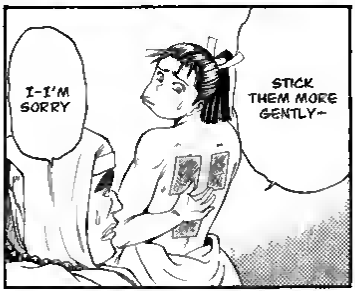
EH?
WAH!
GAHH...

THIS IS THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING. IF YOU CAN'T DO THIS, YOU CANNOT MASTER HORSEBACK RIDING!
THIS,
MIGHT BE A PROBLEM!!


FUJIWARANO MOTONARI
MANS ON

EEK...


YOU CAN'T EVEN GET TO THE HORSE'S BELLY DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF QUITTING?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN TEN DAYS, AND FORGET ABOUT GOING AROUND THE HORSE,

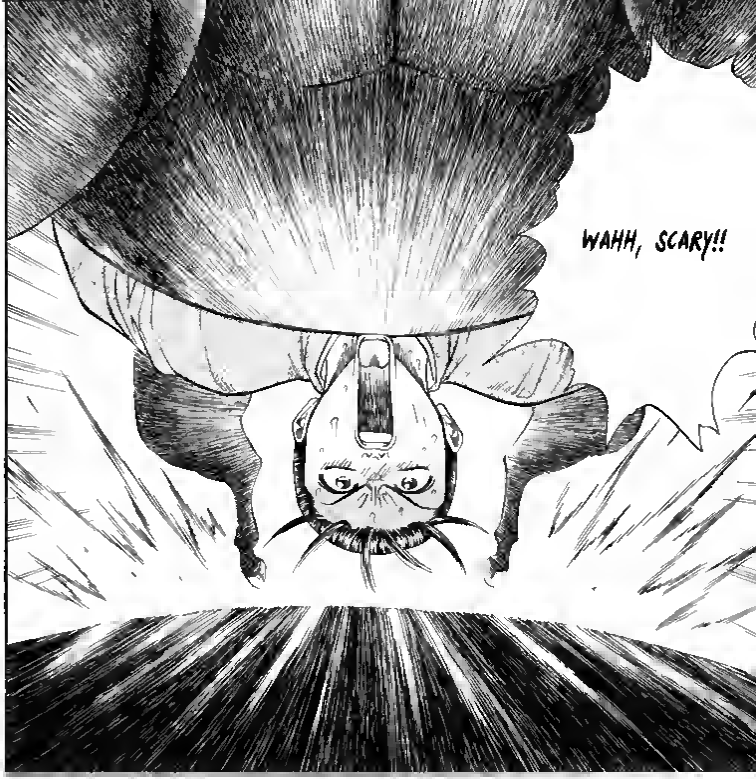

I-I'M SORRY
STICK THEM MORE GENTLY~

THAT SORT OF WOUND IS GOING TO HURT NO MATTER HOW GENTLY HE STICKS THEM

YOUR BODY WILL BECOME RAGGED!!
THAT'S RIGHT! IF YOU CONTINUE TO GET THESE WOUNDS EVERY DAY,
NO!!
I THOUGHT I LIKED HORSES AND THAT I WAS GOOD AT RIDING THEM,
SO BEING SHOWN A TECHNIQUE LIKE THAT WHICH I CAN'T DO IS FRUSTRATING

MAN, SUCH A SORE LOSER
I'M GOING TO MASTER THAT TECHNIQUE, NO MATTER WHAT!!
It's my duty to make use of those Stratagems and put myself to work
Ushiwaka chipped away at his life to polish the Stratagems
AS AN ACROBAT, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN'T DO IT!!
I can't possibly complain and give up with something like this

HE'S SOMEHOW MANAGED TO BE ABLE TO GET TO THE SIDE, BUT...
MOVE!!


WAHH, SCARY!!

ズル

UGH!

DON'T STOP! MOVE!

!!

O-OH NO, HE'S GOING TO FALL!!
!!
HAH!!

AHH!!
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ドドド

YOU'RE,
GOING TO DIE
THIS IS AS FAR AS I GO

GIVE IT UP
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU
ACRO-BATICS?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN'T PERFORM AN ACROBATIC MOVE!!
H-HOLD ON!!
EH?
DON'T LUMP HORSEMANSHIP TOGETHER WITH SOME PER-FORMANCE!!

WE'RE RAISED WHILE BEING ROCKED ON THE BACKS OF HORSES.
FROM THE TIME WE ARE BABIES,
YOU JAPANESE THINK OF HORSES AS NOTHING BUT TOOLS... THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN PROPERLY CONTROL HORSES THAT WAY.
WE DO TOGETHER
EVERY ACTIVITY NEEDED FOR SURVIVAL,
AND LOVE THEM
WE TREAT THEM AS FAMILY,
TO ROUT 3 MILLION SONG TROOPS WITH JUST 100 THOUSAND HORSEMEN.
THAT IS WHY WE WERE ABLE,

CURRENTLY, WE HAVE TAKEN A THIRD OF THE SONG'S TERRITORY AS OUR OWN
Jin
Song
THAT STRENGTH LIES IN OUR KNOWLEDGE OF HORSES.
I- IN A BATTLE,
AGAINST 30 TIMES YOUR NUMBERS?
A PART OF OUR BODY WHICH WE MOVE AT WILL.
FOR US, THE HORSE IS THE SAME AS THESE ARMS WHICH HOLD THE ARROW
HOLD ON.
...
IN THE END, IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK FOR JAPANESE

I WON'T GIVE UP
HEARING THAT GOT ME EVEN MORE EXCITED
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS POWERFUL TO THAT EXTENT
I DID SENSE THIS, BUT HORSEBACK RIDING,
FOR MY PROMISE WITH USHIWAKA!!
I'LL MAKE THIS TECHNIQUE MY OWN FOR SURE!!
VOLUME 16 END.
TO BE CONTINUED

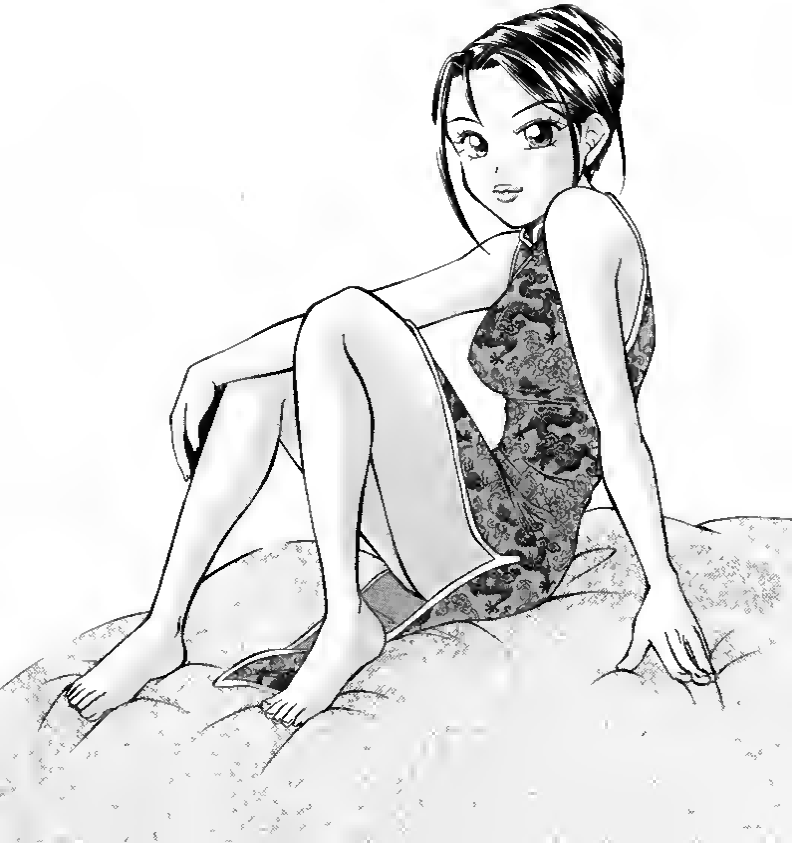
あとがき

弁慶の恋話はいかがだったでしょうか？
当然の事ながら、弁慶の女がらみの話は史実には一切ありません。（弁慶本人も史実上に本当にいたかどうかは分からないとされていますし）
しかし、『義経記』（だったっけかな？）に、弁慶に女の話を振ったら「一遍も百編も同じ」という答えが返ってきた、というのを見てイメージが一気に膨らんでしまい、主人公よりも弁慶の恋話が先になってしまいました。(笑)

この巻は何かと金国の人がからんできますが、別に義経が外国に行って何かになるための「フリ」とかではないので（コヨウは別の意味でのちょっとしたフリになっているんですが）深く勘ぐらないで下さい。もっとも私は気が変わりやすいので実際にどうなるかは未来の自分に聞かないと分からないのですが‥‥。(笑)

「いぬ侍」（しばらく描けていないのですが）のモデルにしてる我が家のM、ダックスに仔犬達が生まれました。6匹もです。かわいいです。しかし、この中で我が家に残るのは1匹だけで、5匹はもらわれて行ってしまいます。既に4匹はいなくなって、残りは2匹です。この犬達に癒されながら、まだまだ先の長い「遮那王」を頑張って描いて行きたいと思っております。

2006.4.19　沢田ひろふみ



Artwork from "Gu...rding".